

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number

1000-0487

Case Title:

Pacific Steel and Recycling

Reporting Office:

Seattle, WA, Area Office

Subject of Report:

20150902 Interview of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Fire Chief for the Fairchild Air Force Base

Activity Date:

September 2, 2015

Reporting Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Special Agent

Approving Official and Date:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

21-SEP-2015, Signed by: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

22-SEP-2015, Approved by: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SYNOPSIS

On September 2, 2015, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) interviewed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Fire Chief for the Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington regarding his agency's involvement in the chlorine gas release at the Pacific Steel and Recycling facility on August 12, 2015.

DETAILS

On September 2, 2015, I interviewed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Fire Chief for the Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington regarding his agency's involvement in the chlorine gas release at the Pacific Steel and Recycling facility on August 12, 2015. After being notified of the nature of the interview and the identity of the interviewing agent, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in substance, provided the following information:

On August 12, 2015, he received a phone call from the Spokane Fire Department in regards to an unknown chemical release at Pacific Steel and Recycling (PSR) in Spokane, Washington. At approximately 1135 hours, the Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB) HAZMAT team was dispatched to the release scene to assist Spokane Fire. Initially the HAZMAT team sent eight hazmat responders, but as they approached the scene it was decided a full HAZMAT team was needed. A full HAZMAT team consists of multiple disciplines including civil engineers, emergency managers and emergency medical teams.

After reporting to the scene command post, his team was sent to the "West Division" section of the scene and ordered to setup "decon" for personnel affected by the chlorine release. His team has a decontamination trailer in which affected personnel can be decontaminated of all of the chemicals to which they have been exposed. This trailer can assist between 18-20 victims at a time.

In this response his team treated five victims with a total decontamination, two of which were complaining of breathing difficulties. All five of the victims were transported to local hospitals with what he would consider "non-serious" medical issues and the victims were released later that day.

At the completion of the decontamination of the victims, his team tested the clothes of the victims. The team used four different pieces of detection equipment in the process. Three of the four detectors registered positive for traces of chlorine.

He was then contacted by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) of Spokane Fire and asked if the FAFB team could assist with

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an entry into the chlorine release scene on the PSR facility. There were no longer any victims at the PSR facility and he prepared his team to enter the release site. Four team members donned Level A suits, with two entering the site and two staying behind in reserve.

His two team members, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) entered the scene in proper PPE. Once inside they conducted air monitoring around the sheer machine and the platform leading up to it. On top of the sheer his team members found the cylinder in question, still inside of the sheer machine. His team could not determine if the cylinder had been breached, but the air monitoring was showing all normal limits. His team did not take pictures of the scene and returned to the command post for further instructions.

He reviewed a text of a picture taken by a PSR employee which captured the chlorine release as it was happening. The picture showed the gas as a large yellow-green gas cloud. The PSR employee texted the picture to representatives of Spokane Fire.

His teams continued to receive gas readings in the buildings surrounding the PSR facility until approximately 2000 hours that evening. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) called him the next day to discuss replacing the HVAC filters in those buildings.

He knows that at one point during the emergency response (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) father entered the scene and was demanding answers to what was going on. Edward Dumaw succumbed on August 17, 2015 to his injuries sustained from the chlorine release at the PSR facility.